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**ELIAS
SAMUEL
COOPER, M.D.**

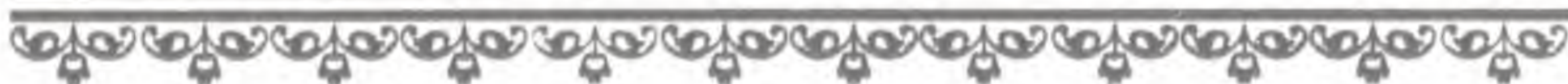
1822 - 1862



ELIAS SAMUEL COOPER
1822-1862

*Notice of the Death of
Dr. E. S. Cooper, with a
Biographical Sketch, by
L. D. LANE, A.M., M.D. Re-
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1862*  *with an Introduction
by LUDWIG A. EMGE, M.D.,
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cology, Stanford University
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"Nulla Dies Sine Linea"

ON MAY 26, 1855, the S.S. Sierra Nevada arrived in San Francisco from San Juan del Sud, bringing 664 passengers anxious to try their luck at the West Coast. Among them was a tall, bearded young physician, thirty-two years old, who had successfully conducted an Eye Infirmary and an Orthopedic Institute at Peoria, Illinois, from 1844 to the Spring of 1855. Except for a preceptorship under his older brother Esaias, practicing at Galesburg, Illinois, and his attendance at short courses in didactic medicine at Cincinnati and St. Louis Universities — the latter having granted him a medical degree when eighteen years old — this remarkable young man was self-educated, driven by the keen desire to perfect himself in anatomy and diversified surgery, hoping that some day he might teach and perhaps found a medical school. This ideal was awakened in him by the accomplishments of Daniel Brainard who had founded Rush Medical College at Chicago, Illinois, in 1843 when thirty-one years old. Throughout his short life Cooper aimed at emulating him.

Elias Samuel Cooper was an indefatigable worker, living up to his motto "no day without a goal" and this in spite of an obscure lingering illness to which he succumbed in the fortieth year of his life. At Peoria he continued to dissect cadavers and taught anatomy to a small coterie of students. When popular opposition to this became too burdensome, he decided to try his luck on the West Coast in spite of having developed a successful surgical practice and in spite of honors bestowed upon him by the Illinois State and Knox County Medical Societies. Besides, his health had begun to fail and so he handed his practice over to a young associate and took off for Paris and England for the purpose of further improving surgical technique prior to shifting his field of endeavor to the West Coast. Shortly after his return to Peoria he closed his Infirmary, left for New York and sometime in April embarked for San Juan del Nord, crossed Nicaragua and secured passage on the S.S. Sierra Nevada bound for San Francisco.

On the day of his arrival at San Francisco the town was in an uproar. Some three thousand Democrats were attending meetings to listen to various politicians. There were several parades during the day and a torchlight procession after dark. The center of activity was at the Oriental Hotel situated at the corner of Battery and Bush Streets. The young doctor witnessed the events from the Rasett House at the corner of Bush and Sansome Streets and what he saw confirmed his belief that San Francisco was an up-and-coming town where his ambitions could materialize. And so, within a few weeks he secured quarters for an Infirmary for the care of eye and orthopedic disturbances across from the Rasett House at 14 Sansome Street.

Practice came slowly at first. Among various notes left by Cooper one tells that "the situation was peculiar. The profession was overstocked and extremely disaffected. The prospect of any stranger, however well qualified to obtaining practice, was exceedingly dull so that not a word of encouragement was at first offered." Elsewhere he recorded that "the aspect of affairs began rapidly to change when he began to unfold his plans to the profession." At this time he began to advertise extensively in various local and out-of-town newspapers. Just what he had experienced in Peoria (1844-1855) repeated itself in San Francisco where his advertisements aroused the anger of his medical confreres. He never completely overcame their antagonism and yet his surgical skill and teaching of anatomy brought him friends. His activities in the San Francisco Medico-Chirurgical Society, his untiring efforts toward creating a State Medical Society and the publication of unusual surgical experiences brought him recognition, and though occasionally severely criticized in open meetings he invariably came out the winner.

Cooper was a highly ambitious man in many respects. He was a tireless student who rarely slept more than four hours at night and, if not busy with patients, read omnivorously and committed his reactions to paper. In one of the ledgers he left, repeated purchases of numerous medical, scientific and historical books are recorded. His drafts for talks, lectures and technical descriptions bear witness to his efforts to improve his vocabulary. Though Cooper was not a brilliant speaker,

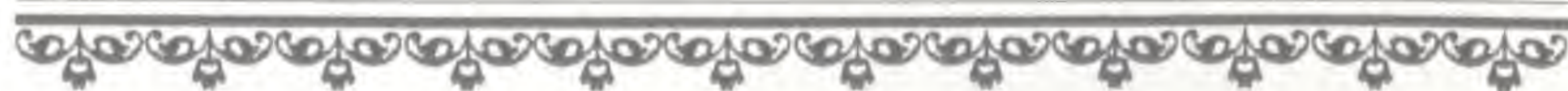
his presentations were sound for his period. Had it not been for a lawsuit over the indications for a cesarean section, Cooper's relation to his confreres would have been happier. And though the suit ended with a "hung jury," and though Cooper was never cited to appear in court, the doctor who assisted him, David Wooster, never ceased to attack him in his journal, the Pacific Medical and Surgical Journal. It was not until 1860, when Cooper created the San Francisco Medical Press, that the feud lessened. The new journal gave Cooper a chance to answer Wooster, at the same time providing an outlet for his and his friends' writing as well as for the publications of his plans to improve the Medical Department of the University of the Pacific which he had founded in 1858. With the materialization of this plan, Cooper's life-long aim to emulate Daniel Brainard became a reality.

Stanford, 1965

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The brief story told here was written as an introduction to the "Obituary" and is based on a host of data, largely unpublished and on file in the Library of the California Historical Society, San Francisco. Levi Cooper Lane vividly and romantically depicted Elias Samuel Cooper in this obituary on the basis of his early recollections of the young Cooper and on his association with him after 1859. Doctor Lane together with Doctor Henry Gibbons took over the San Francisco Medical Press as well as the management of the College of Medicine of the University of the Pacific until 1864 when the college closed, not to reopen until 1870, and then changing its name to Cooper Medical College in 1882.



Editor's Table.

ON the 13th of October, at 20 minutes before 9 o'clock, A. M., expired, DR. E. S. COOPER, the late Editor of this journal, in the 40th year of his age.

The brief obituary notice embodied in the preceding paragraph, is, according to what I inferred from a late conversation with him during his illness, all that should appear in reference to his death; so, also, in regard to his last resting-place, he requested that the simplicity of the Quaker faith, in the principles of which he had been instructed in his youth, and for the tenets of which he ever cherished the warmest admiration, should characterize it, as far as could be compatible with the wishes of his friends, and that, so far as his own immediate wishes were concerned, he would prefer that the spot should remain without *grave-stone or epitaph*. In making a wish of this kind, it was far from his desire or aim, to win a remembrance by an affected eccentricity or intentional renunciation of the feelings which animate the hearts of most dying men, but it rather arose from that absence of ostentation, that simplicity of character which were so leading features of his mind. In consequence, however, of the numerous and extended relations which he held with the medical world,—to the zenith of whose firmament he was suddenly transported by means of a bold, original and extraordinary genius, and took place among the leading stars there,—as well as to stimulate the ambition of the student of Medicine by an apt example of how brilliant a reputation may be won in a comparatively brief period of existence, and more especially at the request of some of his friends, who knew him

best and loved him most,—I have consented to digress a little from his wishes in giving, in this number of the MEDICAL PRESS, a somewhat extended notice of him, who, as its Editor and chief contributor, has hitherto enlivened its pages with such a variety of original matter as gave it a prominent place in the Medical literature of this Continent, but from whose title-page his name has now been forever erased by the hand of death.

ELIAS SAMUEL COOPER was born near Somerville, Butler County, Ohio, in 1822. In his youth he was noted for his vivacity of disposition, his quickness of perception, his keen-sighted observation, his remarkable readiness to acquire knowledge and aptitude for making application of whatever he learned; at that period, it may be remarked, that he evinced, in whatever he undertook, the germs of that inventive genius for which he has since been so much distinguished. Under the direction of his brother, now a prominent physician in the West, he commenced the study of Medicine at the age of sixteen years; in the prosecution of his studies, at this period of his life, he manifested that constancy and energy of purpose, which became afterwards, in so marked a manner, his distinguishing characteristic. Not content with the ordinary routine of study, at that time, entirely under his own guidance, he instituted and conducted a course of vivisections, of which he has frequently remarked to me, that many of the observations then made had become leading principles for his guidance in his subsequent surgical career. Though then he was as yet in his boyhood, his quickness of perception led him to observe that the structure of veins which run in a vertical course differs from that of those which occupy a horizontal direction; the valvular architecture of the former he noticed was much more developed than that of the latter. His collegiate medical course was taken at Cincinnati, Ohio, yet at a period so far preceding his majority as would preclude the possibility of the usual college honors being granted him; these honors, however, were very soon afterwards granted to him by the University of

St. Louis, Mo. At nineteen years of age he commenced the practice of medicine at Danville, in the eastern part of Illinois. He at once entered into a large practice, from the proceeds of which, during the summer months, he realized near \$800 per month, an amount which was enormous for a western country practice. Soon after settling in Danville, he was called upon to perform a surgical operation, in which he exsected a large portion of the lower jaw. The boldness of this operation, as well as the unperturbed coolness with which it was accomplished, showed to his friends as well as himself, that he was possessed of rare surgical talent, and indicated to him the propriety of selecting a larger field for his operations. Near the age of 22 years, he removed to Peoria, Illinois, a town which then gave promise of becoming one of the leading cities of the West.

Within a year after his settling in Peoria, he opened a dissecting room, secured a class of students and a number of medical men of the place, to whom he delivered lectures upon Anatomy, accompanied with demonstrations upon the dead subject. His life, as I well remember, was, at that time, a constant gala-day of enthusiasm,—whilst his genius seemed to be ever enlivened by the selectest influences of the brightest stars of hope, which, mingled with the animating inspirations of a lively ambition, painted the future in all those gorgeous tints which hold in rapture the youthful heart. At that time, he seemed to be almost wholly neglectful of the present, and to live with an eye only to the future. For, during the first three years after his locating in Peoria, he gave but little attention to private practice, his time being mainly devoted to a careful study of the great principles of Medicine, and, more especially, to that branch of it, Surgery, which he had chosen as his future sphere of action. During this time, I am able to bear witness, that, in no case, have I ever seen such devotion as a student. Day, as well as the greater portion of the night, one might ever find him within his study, or analyzing the textures of the cadaver. When fatigued from the confinement of

study, his habit was to rise up, and pace the room for some moments, and sing with great vivacity some lively song ;—the happy energy which pervaded his manner at such times, showed that his ardent genius was constantly feasting upon the inspirations which were furnished by his studies and researches. At this time, he usually retired between three and four in the morning, and rose between seven and eight, apparently as much refreshed as those who spend the whole night in sleep. The motto which he had inscribed on the wall, at his bedside, was that of the old Greek painter Appelles—*Nulla dies sine linea*.

The zeal with which Dr. Cooper pursued his researches in Medicine and Surgery, early indicated him as one who would soon win for himself the highest laurels which can be awarded in our profession ; his reputation at Peoria was at once established by a brilliant series of operations for the removal of deformities of the eye and face, of which each case was crowned by success. His first operation was in a case of strabismus, in which he was entirely successful. Now, as is usual, the sight of one so rapidly outstripping his peers, soon created a jealousy on the part of the older members of the profession towards him. As it was at once seen that nothing in his profession could be brought to bear against him which would sully his reputation, or obstruct his upward advancement, so it seems to have been decided, on the part of his enemies, that the vulnerable point in which they might most advantageously assail him, would be in respect to his dissections. At first, the aid of the press, with its many arms, was brought to bear against him. Article after article, of a sensational character, appeared daily, until, finally the worse passions of the public were kindled to such a pitch, that a popular move was set on foot, the aim of which was to compel him to leave the city. For this purpose, flaming handbills, headed with the title, " RALLY TO THE RESCUE OF THE GRAVES OF YOUR FRIENDS," &c., were posted in all parts of the city, calling for an indignation meeting of the people. Nowise daunted by the threatening aspect of affairs, the Doctor himself attended the meeting, accompanied by a few of his friends ;

by the management of some of the latter, a gentleman was selected as Chairman, who was publicly recognized to be of the opposition party, but who, in reality, was a "Cooperite," as his friends were then called. This gentleman, by assuming to be partly intoxicated and the use of a large fund of Irish wit, soon wrought so much upon the risible faculties of the audience, that few felt like taking any violent measures. One old gentleman, the post-master of the city, thinking the matter of too great gravity to be disposed of in so light a manner, made a motion, that, as the President did not appear to be in a condition suited for discharging, with due decorum, the duties of his office, that Mr. Mc——y be requested to resign his place, and that another should be chosen in his stead. Mr. Mc——y, with that intuitive readiness of reply that is so characteristic of his nation, rose up instantly and said, "*A drunken man may get sober, but a native-born fool will never have any sense, by G-d.*" The audience, who had already become properly prepared for the enjoyment of such a scene, now burst into a deafening roar of laughter, which turned the whole affair into a mere farce and matter of ridicule, so that the audience broke up and went home, in the most perfect good humor.

As every effort to sully the doctor's reputation, or damp his enthusiasm in the prosecution of the profession which he so passionately loved, had proved wholly abortive,—the press, in all its attempts to injure him, so far from reaching its object, had tended rather to increase his reputation,—the next resort, on the part of his enemies, was to invoke to their aid the strong arm of the law against him. In hunting up evidence as grounds for a legal prosecution, there was an amount of energy and malevolent bitterness on the part of his opponents which certainly would have succeeded in its purpose, had it not been directed against one of that class of minds whose innate courage and self-reliance ever gathers force co-equally with the circumstances which strive to oppose them. Though prosecution after prosecution, during the space of three years, were at the meeting of each court being waged against him for dissecting,—

as quick as one indictment failing to be sustained, another, without delay, being brought forward on other grounds,—still, all this availed not: no charge ever brought against him was proven to the satisfaction of the jury, by whom, in all cases, he was honorably acquitted. The unwavering steadiness and singleness of purpose with which, amidst all these harrassing circumstances, he continued his professional pursuits, now wrought a change among his opponents, so that, soon afterwards, many who had borne towards him an intense malevolence and bitter antagonism, gradually, one by one, became his friends, and, by their subsequent strong devotion to him, they seemed to wish to make amends for their previous injustice to him. He meanwhile, on his part, so far from keeping awake a remembrance of past hatreds, seemed to blot at once from his memory the previous course of his enemies, and as soon as they made advances towards him, he received them with as much openness and cordiality, as though of their past acts he were wholly unconscious.

In the City of Peoria, he established an Infirmary for the treatment of diseases of the eye and ear, and the removal of deformities of the lower extremities, especially club-foot. In six months after opening this institution, the applications for admission were so numerous, that his building, though a large one, was quite inadequate to contain them, so that he purchased a second one, and the two buildings were constantly crowded with patients. His reputation as an oculist and orthopædic surgeon soon extended into the adjacent States of Indiana, Kentucky and Iowa, so that his practice became, at once, very lucrative.

Near the period when he opened this institution, I recollect an incident or two, illustrative of his cheerfulness and constant good humor, which I will mention. Being summoned into an adjacent county to perform a surgical operation, I accompanied him. Our route, at one place, lay through a deep forest, of some miles in width; when part of the way through this, the road divided into two branches, when, as we afterwards found, we took

the wrong one ; this we pursued for some miles, when, at length, it disappeared, whereupon, the doctor, with his characteristic happy laugh, remarked : " We have at least learned two points,—the first is, that this road does not lead to the place of our destination, and, secondly, that we have made the discovery of its termination." On another occasion, he was called into the country, to operate for a deformity of the eye ; the distance was long, and the day bitterly cold ; on arriving at the farmer's house, a panic seemed to have seized on the family, and they had decided to defer the operation. After arriving home, upon my remarking that the results of our day's work were anything but encouraging, he replied, that he was very well satisfied with it, and that never did he allow himself to be discouraged in the case of failure of any undertaking, where he was conscious of having used all proper endeavors for its accomplishment.

As I have remarked, he had secured an extensive and lucrative practice in the West, yet this did not satisfy his ambition ; money, with him, was but a secondary object,—he had yet a fonder, a more darling thought at heart,—this was, connection with a medical school, and one at the laying of whose cornerstone he had mainly assisted.

In 1854, he visited Europe, and though in ill-health at the time, he made the acquaintance of most of the eminent medical men in Edinburgh, London and Paris ; he also made many observations in respect to the institutions pertaining to Medicine located in these cities. Immediately after his return from Europe, in May, 1855, he came to California, and located in San Francisco. His purpose in coming here, was two-fold, first, the improvement of his health, which had been shattered by a too uninterrupted application to business, and, second, to find an ampler field for the exercise of his surgical talent, and besides, an ulterior object was, that, at no remote day, California would have, as one of her wants, the establishment of a medical school on the shores of the Pacific. It was, impelled by these motives, that he forsook a large and lucrative practice,

and coming to this State, he at once identified himself with the leading movements in Medicine here, to an extent as soon attracted general attention, not only in this city, but also throughout the whole State. By a series of bold and eminently successful operations, there was soon awarded to him that eclat and notoriety which a daring operator ever receives from the public.

Soon after coming to San Francisco he was the prominent leader in a movement for the establishment of a State Medical Society ; and after the foundation of this Society, he figured foremost among those who took part in its transactions ; among the contributors of original communications, his name occurs much oftener than that of any other member. In fact, in every movement which has been made for the advancement of Medicine and Surgery, during the last seven years, on this coast, there has not been one in which he was not only an active laborer with his pen, but a willing and liberal contributor from his purse. The indefatigable energy and untiring zeal which he constantly displayed in all these movements,, at an early period, were mistaken by some of the leading members of the profession, as an intention, on his part, at self-aggrandizement. To those, however, who knew him intimately, no such thought or suspicion ever arose ;—for, to such, there was seen a disposition and readiness to make sacrifices, which illy agreed with the character of one in whom selfishness is a guiding principle. He was one in whose bosom the love of the principles of his profession was a deep, all-absorbing, innate passion ; in it, he lived, thought, and found the whole happiness of his life ;—hence in the furtherance of every move which aimed at the elevation of that profession, he labored with an enthusiasm so unprecedented, and so rarely seen among others, that it is by no means singular that his ardor should have been misinterpreted of having self-promotion as its ulterior object. It is with pleasure we chronicle, that his career in this city, though

brief, yet was sufficiently protracted to show his opponents the incorrectness of the judgment they had passed upon him.

Many of those who had earnestly and, no doubt, honestly opposed him, in becoming conscious of the injustice of their course, ceased at once, their opposition, and magnanimously offered him their friendship ; then, such as had been inimical to him, were still more surprised to find a generous, conciliatory and forgiving spirit, which, if it remembered, at least, overlooked the past.

At the period of his death, Dr. Cooper was Professor of Surgery and Anatomy in the Medical Department of the University of the Pacific, an institution of which he was one of the original founders, nearly four years ago. The elevation and advancement of this institution was, with him, an idea paramount to everything else. From the first days of the organization of the school until the present time, its interests have ever found in his pen a strong weapon of defence ; for it he toiled day and night, with that untiring fervor which was so large an element of his mind : whenever these interests were threatened by disagreement or discord in the school, or the disposition on the part of some of its friends to encumber it with pecuniary burdens disproportionate to its infantile years, his happy manner of removing differences was ever at hand to conciliate and guide aright.

As a lecturer, he possessed by nature no extraordinary gifts ; speaking, with him, always required an effort,—still it was ever impressive, characterized by deliberateness and coolness, to which was added an earnestness which ever firmly seized the attention of the student, and rendered him, though not an orator, still an effective and successful teacher. By the members of his class he was deeply and sincerely respected ; he gradually infused into them that enthusiastic zeal for the profession of Medicine of which he possessed so large a share himself. No one could be associated with him without being imbued with a high interest for a science which he so ardently loved,

—being willing to sacrifice ease, pleasure, the present, the future, all that men prize most, even life itself,—as he has now done,—for its advancement.

As repeated allusion has been made to his strong taste for Surgery, it will be in point to mention a few of his prominent capital operations. He has twice performed the Cæsarian section, each case terminating favorably ; one is a German woman, now living in Illinois ;—the other, a woman in this city, who was afterwards instigated to bring suit against him for damages, by the physician who advised, counseled and assisted at the operation ;—the charges were not sustained ; the parties who were engaged in this scandalous affair, I will pass over in silence, lest the magnitude of their infamy should rescue their names from oblivion. He has twice ligated the arteria innominate, with better success than has hitherto attended this operation,—in one case the patient survived forty-two days. During the twelve months prior to his death, he had exsected the head of the os femoris four times : three of these patients are well, and walk with but slight shortening, scarcely a half an inch ; the fourth is slowly recovering, and bids fair to end well. A year ago he exsected, from the knee of a boy, two and a half inches of the shafts of the tibia and fibula, four inches from the lower end of the femur,—the patient is well, and walks with less than an inch of shortening ;—the joint, in this case, seems well reproduced. For the removal of ovarian tumors he has operated repeatedly, and, in the majority of cases, with success. For the removal of deformities of the eye he has operated a countless number of times, and with uniform success. So, also, in cases of club-foot, he never failed to effect a cure. He has removed the parotid gland, in a case of complicated pharyngeal tumor, in which he disarticulated the maxilla inferior ;—the joint, in this case, was reproduced, with full motion. In no case would he hesitate to lay open the large joints,—as that of the hip or knee, if there were purulent matter or suppurative disease in them. His experience proved that

opening the hip-joint was a matter of trivial importance ; so, also, with the knee-joint in the adult ;—in children, however, he found operations on the knee attended with more danger. The exsection of the tarsal and metatarsal, carpal and metacarpal bones, was one of his most ordinary operations—recovery, with reproduction of the bone removed, occurred in each case, without exception.

For ununited fractures of the bones of the upper and lower extremities he has repeatedly operated,—with, to my knowledge, but a single failure,—and that could scarcely be styled such, since, the patient having died of an intercurrent disease, the fragments of the femur (the bone operated upon) were found united. The operation, however, which he always regarded as the most difficult of his life, was the removal of a piece of iron, an inch long and three-quarters of an inch thick, which, by the explosion of a gun-barrel, had been driven into the post-cardiac region of the chest, and had remained there over two months, previous to the patient's applying to Dr. Cooper. The patient was so nearly dying, that almost every physician who saw him, discouraged him from having anything done ;—indeed some went so far as to say, that in case the man got well, *his recovery would not justify so dangerous an operation*. The patient insisted on it ; the doctor operated, and the man got well ; he has since walked across the plains with a drove of cattle ;—got married and has a family.

Concerning the operation just mentioned, he has often spoken to me—he did this but a few days before his death. In speaking of it, he has frequently said, that, in the selection of his instruments, preparatory to his commencing, he had certain impulses which were most extraordinary, and which would seem supernatural. He said that, after he had selected all the instruments which appeared requisite in the case, another one kept constantly suggesting itself to his mind, which he could see no propriety of taking,—still the impression was so strong that he finally slipped it into his pocket ; this was a pair of very awkward and ungainly appearing forceps. When, during the

operation, after the chest was opened, and after an excessively long and tedious exploration, the foreign body was found, beneath and behind the heart, failing with every other instrument that he had selected to grasp it, he withdrew from his pocket the pair of forceps mentioned, and on trying them, they were exactly suited for extracting the piece of metal.

The boldness of this operation, together with the success attending it, was the keystone to his reputation on this Coast. It placed his name, at once, among the first medical men of this country. The great majority of the cases requiring capital surgical procedure came to him, so that there was opened, at once, for him, a wide-spread field for the employment of that varied store of surgical knowledge which he had been laying up for so many years.

As an operator, he manifested, in a pre-eminent degree, that cool daring, that deliberate self-possession,—which the most untoward circumstance, so far from disturbing, seemed only to increase,—that instant comprehension of the difficulties which happen to arise during an operation, and that intuitive readiness to surmount them, which are the essential elements of great and original surgical genius. Not only was he self-possessed himself, but his manner was such as to thoroughly inspire his patient with the most perfect confidence that he was wholly secure in his hands; and of his spectator, no one who saw with what perfect ease the chisel and drill moved in his hand during his exsections, and the use of the silver ligature for ununited fractures, or with what rapidity, at one bold sweep, he deeply divided the structures of those regions of the body which most surgeons approach with caution, but who, in the one case, were thoroughly impressed with the superiority of his mechanical talent, and in the other, that his daring celerity could only be founded upon that accuracy of anatomical knowledge, which rendered the tissues, as it were, transparent under his eye. I think that no one, who ever stood by his side at such a time, feared for a moment, that the operation would not end successfully.

In conversing with me, some six weeks ago, in reference to the chief sources of satisfaction which he had enjoyed during his life, he remarked, that at no time had he been happier than when, during an operation, some grave unforeseen complication arose which threw his mind wholly on its own resources, and, for surmounting the difficulty, compelled him to rely entirely upon the suggestions of the moment. With a mind so constituted, one can readily comprehend the secret of his success as a surgeon.

Soon after coming to this Coast, he was attacked with an obscure nervous affection, which manifested itself by an attack of hemi-plegic facial paralysis, and wandering neuralgic pains in the extremities, with indigestion. The motor paralysis of the face became less and less each year, though that of sensation continued without change, until, during a convulsive attack which appeared early in the course of his late illness, he suddenly regained normal sensation in the part. The neuralgic pain of the limbs mentioned, are those which, ever since he came here, had given him great trouble; scarcely a day, he has told me, had he been free from pain, which sometimes became excruciating: that one could have labored and especially written so much, while so afflicted, is certainly remarkable,—yet he has often remarked, that it was his chief solace.

In the latter part of May last, his neuralgic symptoms assumed an unusual violence;—they also had their usual accompaniment—indigestion. He then went to bed, with the hope that a few days rest would afford him relief; so far, however, from any improvement, he rapidly grew worse, and on the tenth day afterwards, he was attacked with amaurosis,—complete blindness coming on in a few hours; on the same day, clonic spasms, and, finally, convulsions of most violent character, supervened; the convulsions were arrested by epispastic counter-irritation, conjoined with local depletion,—the loss of vision, however, continued for a few days.

It is the case with most men, that, when, on the supervention

of some great misfortune, they stand most in need of courage, they show the least of it; with the subject of our notice, it was very different,—at no time in his life did he show so much resolution as in the cheerful submission with which he bowed to these calamities. On finding that he was blind, he said, that, for one of his active habits, it was a hard fate, yet, in an hour afterward, he remarked, that acting on the principle which he had adopted as a rule of his life, of cheerfully yielding to what could not be surmounted, he *was now content*. This was said when he and his medical friends believed that he was hopelessly blind; it would be hard to find a similar instance of so immediate and cheerful obedience to the will of Providence.

In the course of a week he recovered his eye-sight, though his vision was subsequently feeble. At the suggestion of his friends, he now sought the valley of San Jose, of which the warm and unchanging atmosphere, it was thought, would hasten his convalescence, and at the same time, along with avoiding the noise and confusion of the city, he would be wholly freed from the annoyances of professional business. For a few days the change appeared to have a most happy influence;—then came again his neuralgic pains, which greatly enfeebled him. On returning to this city, his friends all saw that he was far from being well;—the sallow complexion and bloodless lip, told of some lurking difficulty, that was sapping the foundations of life. When at home, this time, he ligated the femoral artery; though so feeble that he could not walk a hundred steps without being wholly exhausted, yet his hand was perfectly steady, the incision made with as much precision as regarded the arterial relations, and the ligature applied in almost as short a space of time, as if he had been in perfect health. In speaking of the operation afterwards, he observed that he thought the effort it caused him to make, as well as the momentary excitement which it gave his mind, had really a beneficial effect upon him. A few days after this, as he did not seem to improve, but rather to grow worse, he left the city a second

time, and sought the highlands in the vicinity of Santa Clara ; a month's residence there appeared to have improved him so much, that he returned again to San Francisco ; as was the case after his return from San Jose, his neuralgic symptoms came back with so much violence in the lower extremities, soon after returning home, that he was confirmed in the notion he had long entertained, that his disease was kept up and aggravated by the cold, bleak winds which constantly prevail at San Francisco, during the summer months. In that belief, he decided to seek the country once more, with the intention, in case the change proved beneficial, not to return home again until his health was fully restored. The journey selected this time, was to the mountainous regions of the Northern part of the State, as the climate there would be warm and free from those changes which occur in San Francisco.

In this trip, the route taken will be found in the article entitled "Notes of Travel," in another portion of this journal ; during this journey, in which he was absent from the city near six weeks, I accompanied him, and during this period, was scarcely from his side an hour at a time ; then I too plainly saw what, with so much anxiety, I had long apprehended, that, despite all the most thoroughly studied means of treatment to which resort had or could be made, as well as despite all the energies of his otherwise invincible will, still, all was in vain,—*lateri haesit arundo lethalis* ;—at times, however, he had hours of comparative ease, and signs of apparent improvement, these, again, were soon succeeded by accession of violent pain, and obscure morbid complications ; hence, amidst these conflicting alternations, our minds were caused to vibrate perpetually between hope and fear,—the latter continually gaining the ascendancy, until, at length, it became so evident that the dark hour which destiny has fixed as the ultimate fate of all men was so near at hand, that a further indulgence in hope would be irrational, then, with all the heroic coolness which men can display when in the full possession of health and all their powers, but which often forsakes them in the hour of

pain and disease—he turned his face from the world with as much composure as if he never had a name or a hope there, and gave himself up, with undisturbed tranquillity, to a contemplation of the approaching shadows of death. He then consulted with me in reference to returning home, desiring, if I thought it possible, to reach there in order that he might die amidst his friends. It was decided to attempt it, he remarking, at the time, that “he feared he would be so long dying that he would exhaust the patience of his friends.” Four days after our arrival in San Francisco he breathed his last: he died easily, without struggle or groan; a few moments after death, his countenance lapsed into that smile of happy serenity which was so natural to it in health, but which, during the past three months, had been disturbed by anxiety, and, at times, terrible suffering. During our sojourn in the North, he had an attack, resembling an apoplectiform seizure, in which he suddenly became blind, deaf, speechless, and apparently insensible; in this state he remained near four days, when, on returning to consciousness, he said that, much of the time, he had suffered pain too terrible for description. After this, followed a dysenteric attack, which was no sooner controlled, than there supervened a pneumonia, of passive type, accompanied by profuse spitting of rust-colored sputa, orthopnoea and dyspnoea, of most painful character. The pneumonic attack placed the seal on his destiny; from it he never rallied; the little remains of life which it left him were soon expended in a painful, labored respiration, consequent on an extensive pleural effusion, also, seemingly of passive origin. After his return home, every breath which he took required a painful effort: hence it was apparent to all, that exhausted nature, under such a burden, must quickly sink, which, as we have said, soon took place.

As his disease had assumed so multiform a character, sometimes appearing to be seated in one organ, sometimes in another,—one day the brain appearing to be organically diseased, the next, merely functionally,—it was his special and urgent request, that, in case of his death, a careful post-mortem examina-

tion should be made,—he himself actually designating the parts where he desired the disease to be sought for : fearing that my feelings, as his relative, might influence me to neglect this request, he repeated it to certain of his friends, obtaining a promise from them that it should be done. In obedience to that request, a careful autopsy was made ; commencing at the brain, the vital organs were examined in order downwards. The brain was considerably congested, yet no organic lesion was found in it ; the heart was enlarged, with dilatation and softening ; lungs congested ; extensive pleural effusion ; stomach perfectly healthy ; liver slightly enlarged, with some fatty degeneration ; spleen much softened ; pancreas with a scirrhus-like hardness at one point, otherwise healthy ; a morbid fibroid structure, an inch and a quarter in diameter, hollow and containing a bile-colored matter, was found in proximity with the semi-lunar ganglion ; periphery of the kidney nodulated and unhealthy in appearance,—otherwise, they presented nothing abnormal. It should be remarked, that the medulla oblongata and upper portion of the spinal marrow were smaller than usual, presenting the aspect of having been somewhat atrophied. Now, to deduce from the autopsy an explanation of all the symptoms which were present in his mysterious and eventful disease, would be difficult and perhaps impossible ; still, from the examination, this much seems certain, that the prime seat of his disease was in the organic nerve-centres, whence the irritation was transmitted to the cerebro-spinal nervous system, whence it was eccentrically manifested, now in one organ, now in another,—thus giving rise to these protean morbid manifestations to which allusion has been made.

In speaking with him, a few days prior to his death, in reference to the publication of this journal, on my asking him if he wished that it should be continued, he remarked that he desired that I should issue one more number, in which there should be made a simple announcement of his death to the medical world ; in regard to further issuing it, he preferred that I should be guided by my own judgment rather than by his

advice. On further questioning him, if there were any unfinished ideas or plans in his profession which he would like to commit to my charge for further prosecution, he remarked that, had he anticipated so early a close of his life, there was much which he would have written in defence of certain principles in Medicine in which he had taken the initiative, as the reproduction of tendons and the structures composing the joints, &c.—with which the reader of the *MEDICAL PRESS* is already familiar ; —in regard to these points, he said there was much which he would have written, in anticipation of their being assailed, but that now he gave them no further thought, as he firmly believed that he was on the verge of an existence, where higher employments would soon cause him to forget all the hopes and cares of earth.

A word more, in reference to his character. His great and leading characteristic was, singleness of idea and continuity of purpose ; the profession of Medicine he loved, cultivated and was devoted to with his entire and undivided mind ; from the period in which he espoused it, and fully began his career, every energy of his genius was given to it, with an enthusiasm which nothing save the chilling hand of death could cool ; it was this too intense devotion to that profession which has sacrificed him on its altar, at a period of his life when it could truly be said of him, that no man ever died with more unfinished work ; still, the brevity of his life is rendered more deserving of praise, from the fact that in it he has won an unfading chaplet of honor, which will give his name an enduring place among the illustrious dead of our profession.